

**CITY OF WHITTIER  
SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDED AGENCIES FY 2012-13**

**SUMMARY**

**American Red Cross, Rio Hondo Chapter** provides valuable services in the community to help people prepare for, prevent and respond to emergencies. Red Cross services are free of charge and include; disaster preparedness training, disaster relief, emergency communication to members of the Armed Forces and their families, information booths at fairs and community events and the recruitment and training of volunteers.

**Assistance League of Whittier** provides personal, educational and enrichment services to local area residents without regard to race, creed or political preferences. The Dental Care Program serves students in grades K through 12 who are not on state or federal aid, but who cannot afford emergency dental care. There are 6 dentists who participate in the program. They are paid \$100/hour. The student pays \$10 for an appointment. If a student cannot pay, he/she is still treated and payment is requested post appointment. The Assistance League's goal is for the student to see the dentist as soon as possible.

**Black Mat Mixed Martial Arts (BMMMA)'s** mission is to rebuild family values by creating a family environment for under privileged and "at risk" youth and young adults through Mixed Martial Arts as a means to teach respect, self discipline, confidence, family and team relationships. Through the Homework and Tutoring Program, the goal is to help every child graduate by helping them improve their grades and give them back their confidence.

**Boys & Girls Club of Whittier** provides after-school and summer programs for youth ages 6 to 18 years old in the areas of Academic Success; Character and Civic Engagement; and Healthy Lifestyles. The mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need this the most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. The Safe Passage Walking Program bridges the gap for families who need viable and affordable after-school programming; who desire to see their children grow and develop in a safe and nurturing environment; and who have limited options because one or both of the parents/guardians work full-time outside of the home.

**Bridge of Faith H.O.M.E.'s** mission is "to provide a HOME, emotional support and life skills to girls who have aged out of foster care and women facing homelessness." The VIP (Value, Importance, Purpose Program) and Wrap-Around Services help girls and women recover from an intergenerational cycle of trauma and dysfunction. Through mentoring and counseling, they help clients set achievable goals and work with them one-on-one on personal development. There is a unique "after care" service – in multi-dimensional on-going support and household items – to women who have moved out of the HOME residences and those working to reunite with children currently in foster care.

**C.A.P.C., Inc.'s** mission is to empower individuals with disabilities to maximize the quality of their lives in their home communities. The Autism and the Need for a New Perspective program is to target staff development to meet the growing service demands of individuals with autism. Currently 45% of those referred in the past two years have autism and desire supports to find work, attend school and fit into their communities. To do this, supervisors and trainers will attend at least two level conferences that focus on meeting the needs of people with autism and quarterly in-services will be provided to CAPC support staff working with individuals with autism.

**City of Whittier Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Social Services Commission Scholarship Program** provides opportunities for families to enhance their quality of life by “Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs.” The funds are used to provide opportunities to those meeting the Community Development Block Grant income guidelines to participate in Department recreation programs. The program provides quality leisure services and activities to lower income residents and allows many individuals who would otherwise be unable to afford to participate in constructive recreation programs. As childhood obesity continues to be a problem in society, the scholarship program also gives young people a chance to participate in physical activity programs that lead to a healthier lifestyle.

**Hispanic Outreach Taskforce (H.O.T.)** Serve our Neighbors Backpack Giveaway and Community Health Education Fair program is a community outreach effort to bring together community residents in a selected underserved area of the City, with business, social and health services, churches, and City government/Police. HOT will put on an event in a Whittier park in the summer of 2012 that includes a backpack and school supplies giveaway, and informational and activities booths for agencies focusing on health education and diabetes prevention, as well as neighborhood safety and security.

**Homework House** provides free mentoring and tutoring for at-risk children in a neutral and caring environment. The project is one-on-one tutoring designed to give undivided attention to the student as well as develop a mentoring relationship. Tutors, whether volunteers or work/study students, are trained by credentialed teachers in the particular needs of his/her student and are provided with learning strategies and materials daily. Contents of this program include oral reading for fluency; vocabulary building from context; and comprehension practice combined with writing practice.

**Intercommunity Counseling Center, Inc.** provides professional counseling, sensitive to the needs of clients of diverse ethnic, cultural and spiritual backgrounds in the Whittier community and surrounding area. Using the Fee Assistance for counseling low-income, at-risk residents program, individual (child, adolescent, adult), marital and family therapy can be accessed. Residents pay as little as \$20 per session, while the grant supplements client’s fees up to the minimum sliding scale (\$50) fee. ICC fundraising efforts make up the difference between this fee and the actual cost of service.

**Interfaith Food Center** provides compassionate supplemental food services to the hungry, disadvantaged, disabled and homeless population of the City and unincorporated areas of Whittier and the City of La Mirada, making IFC the primary provider of supplemental groceries to the neediest residents. IFC provides supplemental groceries to low/no income individuals and families weekly and also provides a sack lunch to homeless individuals daily.

**Legal Aid Society of Orange County (dba Community Legal Services)** Domestic Violence Prevention Program provides vital legal assistance to victims of domestic violence; civil harassment; and elder abuse to prevent further abuse and help victims obtain benefits and economic support to live independently from their abuser. The program assists self-represented individuals, many of whom are low to moderate income, with applications for temporary and long-term restraining orders and related documents; advice on court and law enforcement procedures; preparation of protective orders after court hearings; and referrals to relevant community resources for additional support such as counseling, lawyer referral, police, shelters and victim-witness assistance providers.

**Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LACADA)** provides comprehensive services for individuals and families with a primary substance abuse problem in office-based and live-in settings. Clients receive crisis intervention, comprehensive assessment, psycho education, psychotherapy, drug counseling, recreational counseling, vocational counseling and case management. Specialized services are available for persons living with HIV, pregnant and parenting women, homeless persons, co-occurring disorders (mental health), adolescents and persons with criminal justice or child custody/welfare involvement. Expanded HIV testing and prevention services are now available. Medical screening and referral, smoking cessation and teen dating violence prevention are new programs scheduled to start January 1, 2013.

**Project Sister Family Services** Sexual Assault Prevention Education Services program will provide prevention education services to 500 Whittier residents, including violence prevention programs at low income schools; school programs on “Good touch – Bad Touch;” anti-bullying; ways to avoid date and acquaintance rape and how to avoid abuse through date rape drugs and alcohol; senior citizen safety classes that teach seniors how to avoid identity theft, assault by acquaintances and strangers, and victimization by financial fraud practitioners; and self defense classes.

**The Salvation Army** provides the Whittier Shower Program. The Shower Program services those in need, residents and homeless, including referrals to shelter, food distribution on site and other basic necessities. They provide a support system for homeless to address personal hygiene.

**The Salvation Army** Transitional Living Center (TLC) Program provides housing and comprehensive support services to homeless women and their children and can accommodate 28 families at a time. Most are homeless due to domestic violence and/or substance abuse. The majority are unemployed and have few marketable skills and limited education. Families can stay in the program up to 24 months at no cost, in order to maximize savings for eventual independent living. Service on-site include educational and employment assistance; licensed childcare; counseling, parenting, computer and life skills; meals and health care.

**The SKILLS Foundation** exists to create a partnership of parents, schools, businesses, government and the community to support programs that give every child the opportunity to develop the “SKILLS” necessary for living and learning successfully. The Friday Forum program is dance staffed with police officers and Community Services staff. The dance is an enrichment program that focuses on 5 developmental assets identified to decrease juvenile delinquency and drug abuse. In addition, the SKILLS Foundation will incorporate a wellness component to combat childhood obesity which is on the rise, and has been identified as a national community need. The Friday Forum will also incorporate games that encourage an active lifestyle or have an education component about nutrition and wellness.

**SASSFA (Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority)** enhances the quality of life in local communities by developing partnerships designed to promote self-sufficiency and independence through coordinated services and comprehensive referrals. The SASSFA Senior Services program provides the following services to older adults (60+) residing in the Whittier area: congregate nutrition, home-delivered meals; care management; homemaking; personal care; homemaker registry; caregiver support groups; and community education. A major portion of the funding supports the congregate and home delivered meal program.

**SPIRITT Family Services** (Skills for Prevention, Intervention, Recovery, Individual Treatment and Training), **CLARO** (Challenging Latinos to Access Resource Opportunities) and **SERENA** (Self Empowerment Resources to Educate, Nurture and Advocate) programs are school-based gender specific weekly support groups for at-risk youth at several schools in Whittier. Services target youths' resiliency and protective factors, in addition to stimulating critical thinking and moral reasoning through experiential activities and guided discussions. Programs consist of positive engagement of at-risk, low-income youth with an emphasis on education and family; case management and culturally sensitive programming, including role modeling; and linkage to community resources.

**St. Matthias Episcopal Church** provides The Soup Hour – St. Matthias' flagship program – which began serving weekday meals to 20 community members in 1983. It is the only continuous daily hot meal program devoted to underserved and disadvantaged individuals for more than a 10-mile radius. Now serving approximately 96 people per day, The Soup Hour provides hot meals Monday through Friday to all who come in; offers mail service for all who request it; distributes hygiene kits and other donations; and makes referrals to social services agencies for further assistance. The program is run by two part-time staff members along with a dedicated cadre of 30 volunteers.

**Whittier Area First Day Coalition** helps the homeless and at-risk individual's transition toward self-sufficiency. The Social Services Program provides basic needs, information, referrals and transition management to stabilize one's life. Services include screening for Recovery from Homelessness and Keeping Families Together; access to primary medical care; assistance with identification; mailing address and message/phone center; and distribution of bus tokens and hygiene items. First Day maintains close ties with over 50 referral agencies and businesses that provide eyeglasses, dental, medical, mental health and legal services, haircuts, clothing, prescription drugs and gasoline, either free or at a minimal cost. Through a combination of available services, referral and counseling, a path of stabilization is created.

**Whittier Area Interfaith Council** Cold Weather Shelter program provides supper, breakfast, and overnight housing for approximately 40 persons a night for approximately 16 weeks during the coldest season of the year. Assistance is provided for those with physical and economic needs in the community and to provide educational opportunities to learn about the issues that impact that care.

**Whittier Area Literacy Council** provides free literacy and English as a Second Language tutoring programs to adults and children who are in need of better skills. Literacy Skills for Success at School and Work program will provide one-on-one and small group tutoring for students who seek to improve their skills in order to succeed at school and/or work. Students are referred to the Council by school, libraries and word of mouth. Students will be assessed for proficiency in word attack, comprehension and spelling skills. The project will recruit, train and supervise volunteer tutors to work with students. Instruction will focus on reading, writing, spelling and oral language and will serve adults and children third grade age and older. We will recognize students' and tutors' successes and include the families through three Family Literacy Nights.

**Whittier Meals on Wheels** program, first and foremost, provides services to those who are in need of nutritious meals and are unable to secure them other than through Meals on Wheels, and who cannot pay the full cost. We carefully scrutinize their resources to the best of our ability before subsidizing them, and many times only subsidize a portion of the cost. Secondly, the money is used to help offset our operational costs.

**Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project (WRHAP)** ministers to the needs of the community impact by HIV/AIDS by providing support and understanding to individuals and families affected by this disease. **MoonCircle: A Strength-Based Program for Young Women** is a weekly psycho-educational process group for young women of all cultural and ethnic makeups, ages 14 to 24. Facilitated by a Marriage and Family Therapist Intern using a very spiritual and holistic approach, MoonCircle provides a safe atmosphere to address the many pressures, struggles and obstacles young women encounter by building protective factors, strengthening relationships and constructing the platform for all young women to embrace diversity and individuality while acknowledging their personal self-worth, self-value and inner beauty.

**The Whole Child** gives children of all ages the skills and support they need to build emotionally healthy lives and become caring, responsible adults. The Whole Child uses two programs to accomplish this. The **Crisis Intervention Program**: when a child and /or family member is experiencing a crisis, which often occurs in the school, home and/or community, immediate assessment, triage and intervention is required. A master level therapist will provide a comprehensive crisis assessment to determine the level of therapeutic interventions required to stabilize the child and/or family member. The goal is to stabilize the identified client in the present crisis situation preventing a more intensive level of mental health services such as hospitalization, removal from the home, expulsion from school, and/or police involvement. Thus, returning the identified client to the highest level of functioning and reintegrating successfully the client to the school, home and community setting. The **Parenting Education Program (The Parent Project)**: Utilizing the Effective Parenting Model customized for children of different age groups, parents will develop their skills in core effective parenting techniques that include: teaching mutual respect, effective, nonviolent discipline techniques, the power of encouragement and successful communication skills.

**Women and Children's Crisis Shelter** serves victims of domestic violence and their children by providing emergency and transitional shelter programs for victims of domestic violence who request protection and assistance, by providing culturally relevant and supportive intervention services, by coordinating with other agencies working to improve the wellness of families, and by providing information for the prevention of intimate partner violence.

**YMCA of Greater Whittier STRIDE Program** is a community integrations program serving developmentally disabled adults. STRIDE provides ongoing education in daily living skills, practical math, computer usage, community integration, library skills and vocational skills. As the client progresses, we add beginning job training and community service. Members participate at job enclaves, take courses at Rio Hondo College, and volunteer at Whittier Meals on Wheels and for the Whittier A.M.Y's Men recycling program.